NANETTE S. EDWARDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Phone: (803) 737-0800 www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov

February 6, 2019

P. Rodney Blevins
President and Chief Executive Officer – Southeast Energy Group
100 SCANA Parkway, Mail Code D-304
Cayce, SC 29033

Dear Mr. Blevins:

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") issued Order No. 2019-100 (the "Order") on January 30, 2019, which sought an allowable *ex parte* briefing to address certain Commission questions and concerns regarding the \$1,000 cash refund/rebate advertisements by Dominion Energy, Incorporated ("Dominion") and the Customer Education Plan filed by the South Carolina Electric and Gas Company ("SCE&G" or "Company") with the Commission in Docket Nos. 2017-207-E, 2017-305-E, and 2017-370-E. The Order posits specific questions that relate to the Customer Education Plan and the rebate advertisement.

I request that SCE&G provide an allowable *ex parte* briefing to update the Commission on the Company's Customer Education Plan, the actions taken to date, and any modifications to the plan that are contemplated to address any confusion or questions regarding the Company's current services. The Company is in the best position to update the Commission as to its progress and plans for customer education, as ORS does not currently have any information not already in the Commission's possession.

In its Order 2018-804 at page 106, the Commission adopted the following merger condition:

Within 30 days of closing of the Merger, and in consultation with ORS, Dominion Energy and SCE&G will develop a program to educate SCE&G customers about the benefits and implementation of any Merger Benefits Plan approved by the Commission, and any such program shall be filed with the Commission prior to its implementation.

It is ORS's position the Customer Education Plan filed by the Company meets the requirements of Order No. 2018-804. Nonetheless, the advertising campaign undertaken by Dominion Energy prior to Commission approval of the merger with SCE&G focused heavily on the \$1,000 cash refund/rebate. The current advertising campaign does not clarify the change in the Company's

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position on the \$1,000 checks following the Commission's adoption of the Company's Customer Benefits Plan B-Levelized. The resulting confusion has left some members of the public and General Assembly angry and disappointed. As referenced by Commissioner Williams on January 30<sup>th</sup>, the Company did commit to "own" the proposal it put forward to the Commission, which the Commission subsequently adopted.

It is against this background that I request the Company provide an allowable *ex parte* briefing to the Commission, which I believe will benefit the public, the Commission, and the Company.

In compliance with the Order, ORS will be seeking information from the Company to respond to the Commission's request of ORS.

I do appreciate your willingness to meet with me and my staff this morning to discuss these issues and concerns. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Nanette S. Edwards

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